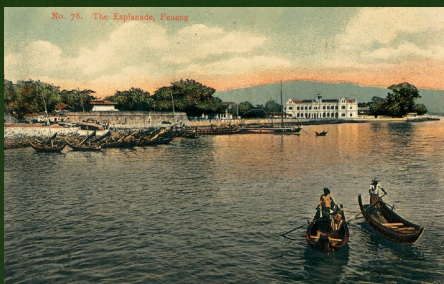


PENANG

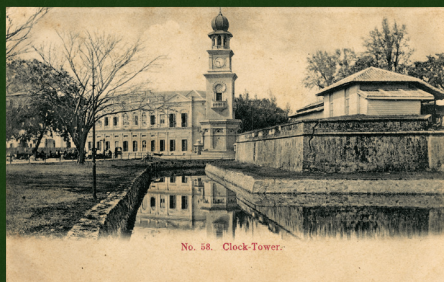
Clock Tower, Penang.



500 Early Postcards
Cheah Jin Seng



No. 78. The Esplanade, Penang



No. 58. Clock-Tower.



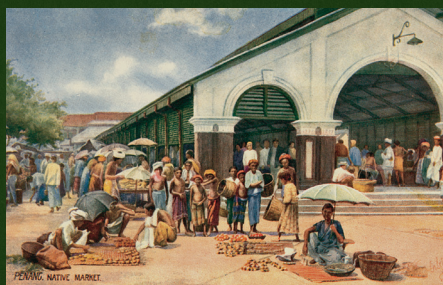
No. 124

CHINESE TEMPLE, PITT STREET, PENANG



No. 72. Sports in Penang

CONTENTS



Foreword	7
HISTORY of PENANG and its PICTURE POSTCARDS	8
THE COLLECTION	
The HARBOUR	30
COLONIAL PENANG	70
The HOTELS, SCHOOLS and HOSPITALS	110
The STREETS, ROADS and TRANSPORT	146
BEYOND GEORGE TOWN	202
The PEOPLE	244
PHILATELIC HISTORY	280
Further Reading	286
Acknowledgements/About the Author	288

HISTORY of PENANG and its PICTURE POSTCARDS



The postage stamps used by Penang, as part of the Straits Settlements.

In my earlier book, *Malaya: 500 Early Postcards* (2008),¹ I described and published about 95 early picture postcards (ppcs) of Penang. For this book, I have extended the number of Penang ppcs to 500. Penang was, like Singapore, a regional entrepôt in the 19th century, and played an important role in British expansion in Southeast Asia; this is reflected in the number of ppcs of Penang. In fact, Penang has nearly as many pre-war ppcs as Singapore.²

The 500 ppcs in this book are shown at approximately their original size and in their original colour. Every serious collector of Penang ppcs has cards that other collectors do not have as no collection is ever complete! This book will exhibit some ppcs not published previously.

Brief history of Penang

Penang is located in the northwest of Peninsular Malaysia by the Straits of Malacca. It consists of two parts – Penang Island and Seberang Perai (formerly known as Province Wellesley) on the mainland of the Malay Peninsula.⁷ Kedah lies to the north and east, and Perak to the south.

Penang has a land area of 1,048 square kilometres and a population of 1.56 million (2010) comprising Chinese (43%), Malays and other natives (41%), Indians (10%), and others (6%).¹²⁶ The capital of Penang is George Town.

Penang, famously known as “The Pearl of the Orient”, was originally part of the Kedah Sultanate. It was taken over by Captain Francis Light (1740–1794),⁸ on behalf of the British East India Company (EIC), on 11 August 1786.³⁷ His success in taking possession of Penang is

highly praised in British historical accounts: “Pinang, like Singapore, owes its existence as a British possession mainly to the statesmanlike foresight, energy, and diplomatic resourcefulness of one man... Francis Light.”⁹ On 3 July 1786, a treaty ceding Penang to the British was signed between Francis Light and the Sultan of Kedah. Light landed at Point Pinaggar (the present Esplanade) on 15 July and, on 11 August 1786, took formal possession of the island, officially designated as Prince of Wales Island.⁹ At the time of its cession, the population of Penang comprised only 158 Malay settlers.¹²⁵

Light died from malaria on 21 October 1794 and was laid to rest at the Protestant cemetery on Northam Road (now Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah).⁸ His eldest son, (Colonel) William Light, became the founder of Adelaide in 1836 and the first Surveyor-General of South Australia.^{9,11}

In 1886, in commemoration of the centenary of Light’s founding of Penang, the Municipal Council of Penang erected a memorial to Light in the style of a Grecian rotunda in front of St George’s Church in George Town (see *Chapter 5*).

When Penang celebrated its 150th anniversary in 1936, the Municipal Council commissioned a life-sized bronze statue of Francis Light [1]. As there was no contemporary portrait of him, the statue was based on a portrait of his son, Colonel William Light.¹² The statue was unveiled on 3 October 1939 by Sir Shenton Thomas [2], the governor of the Straits Settlements (SS), at Fort Cornwallis (at the site of the present amphitheatre in the Fort).^{13,14} It was later moved to the grounds of the Penang High Court and moved several times before finally moving back to its



A portrait of photographer Ernst August Kaulfuss (1861–1908).

original location in Fort Cornwallis in 2003, after the fort was restored and opened as a tourist attraction.

As a result of their common heritage, Penang and Adelaide became twin cities in December 1973,¹² following meetings between the then Chief Minister of Penang, the late Dr Lim Chong Eu, and the Premier of South Australia, Don Dunstan.¹²

Penang enjoyed rapid development following its takeover by Francis Light. One of the main reasons for its speedy progress was Penang's strategic location on the trading routes of Europe and Asia [3–4]. At the same time, the tin and rubber boom of the 19th century led to an influx of migrant workers from China and India and, consequently, brisk expansion of the port of Penang.^{15,16}

In 1826, Penang merged with Malacca and Singapore to form the SS.⁷ Mail from Penang began c. 1806, and postage stamps of the SS were first issued in 1867. Penang, as part of this administrative unit, used postage stamps of the SS (*see page 8, top left; [5–6]*). In 1867, the SS became a Crown Colony.⁷

During World War II (1939–1945), Penang was invaded by the Japanese, on 19 December 1941. The Japanese Occupation lasted till 3 September 1945. Even during that tumultuous era, ppcs were produced (albeit very few), and those were sent by collectors (*top and bottom right; [7–8]*).

On 1 February 1948, Penang became part of the Federation of Malaya; this was followed by independence along with the rest of Malaya on 31 August 1957. On 16 September 1963, Penang became a part of Malaysia.⁷

On 7 July 2008, George Town and Malacca were officially recognised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as World Heritage sites. These two cities are described as reflecting “a mixture of influences which have created a unique architecture, culture and townscape without parallel anywhere in East and Southeast Asia”.^{7,124}

Today's Penang is a testimony of Francis Light's foresightedness. A British account wrote this in tribute to him: “The debt which the Empire owes to Light is second only to that which it readily acknowledges as the due of Raffles...But however ignorant the British public as a whole may be of Light's great services, Pinang people are not likely to forget them.”⁹

Publishers and Photographers

The earliest ppc in the SS was published in 1897 by German photographer, Gustave Richard Lambert (G.R. Lambert). He opened his photographic studio in Singapore in 1867 but left the SS in 1885, leaving the studio to the care of Alexander Koch in 1885. When Koch retired in Europe in 1905, he left the studio to the care of H.T. Jensen of the Parisian photographic studio, Reutlingers.⁹ Lambert's studio was ultimately wound up during World War I in 1918. Both Koch and Jensen should be duly credited for many of G.R. Lambert's ppcs, but this is often forgotten!¹²

In Penang, the earliest ppc known was sent on 9 May 1898 [9; 10], and produced by the German photographer and publisher, Ernst August Kaulfuss, more often known as A. Kaulfuss (*see page 8, bottom left; 1861–1908*).¹⁸

Kaulfuss was a pioneer of early ppcs and photographs of Penang, and his early ppcs of Penang are rare. They consist of real photographic vignettes of scenery and people of Penang and Sumatra (photomontages).¹⁹ These photographic images [2; 4] were arranged artistically on a ppc, and are in black and white, deep grey or sepia [11–14].

Kaulfuss was the first established European photographer in Penang,⁹ and had a studio on Farquhar Street. He travelled widely and published many ppcs of Malaya,¹ however, he did not enter Singapore, perhaps due to an agreement with Lambert (Lambert published ppcs of Malaya up to Kedah but did not cover Penang)^{1,2}.



The picture side of [8], showing Penang's Eastern and Oriental Hotel, 1943.



The address side of [7]. This ppc was printed by the Syonan Army Inspection Team.



The address side of [24]. The sender used a “Deutsches Reich” stamp. Stamps used in Germany from 1900 to 1944 were captioned as such.



The picture side of [36], a Christmas greeting card to Rev. Pykett and Mrs Pykett. The ppc shows a Japanese shrine, and is the earliest in my collection; it was sent to Penang on 23 December 1898.

Following his death in Penang in 1908 he was buried at the Western Road Cemetery.¹⁸

Kaulfuss' photomontages date from c. 1898 to 1900 [9; 11–14]. Many of his ppcs of Penang are in colour, and these are shown extensively in the later chapters of this book. Kaulfuss himself occasionally appeared in his ppcs [38]. Besides being the most prolific publisher of pre-war Penang ppcs, he also published the “Greetings from Penang” ppc series (c. 1900–1905) [29–36]. These are similar to Lambert's “Greetings from Singapore” ppcs.

Charles Kleingrothe's ppcs of Penang were produced slightly later (c. 1900–1905). His ppcs are visibly sharper, more colourful and better composed than those of Kaulfuss' photomontages. Kleingrothe's ppcs are equally scarce, and are shown in [15] to [24] (*top left*).

Little is known of Kleingrothe except that, like Kaulfuss, he too was German, and that around 1888, he was the manager of Lambert's branch studio in Deli, Sumatra. Within a year, he had opened his own photo studio in partnership with Herman Staffhell and, by 1898, he had established his independent studio in Medan, Sumatra. He operated his studio till c. 1916 when he succumbed to the economic downturn of World War I (1914–1918). His fate after the closure of his business in Sumatra remains unknown.²⁰

Kleingrothe's ppcs of Penang are very distinct in appearance, and are mostly dated 1900 (the date appears after the name of the publisher) [17–20] , although a few are undated [21–24].

Tan Chin Kim (1882–1948) [25], a Penangite, was also a pioneer photographer and publisher of Penang ppcs.¹⁶ A chance meeting with his last surviving child, Tan Ah Yeang, who is now in her 90s, between 2009 and 2010²¹ provided information on the man himself and the founding of Federal Rubber Stamp Company (FRS).¹⁶ As he was a civil servant (he was an accountant with the Immigration Department), he was not allowed to operate

a private company. He founded FRS in c. 1910, and left the business operations to his brothers, Tan Chin Hean and Tan Chin Thye, as well as other relatives.²¹ FRS had offices in Penang (Beach Street), Ipoh, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore. The *Singapore and Straits Directory of 1916*²² listed the FRS at 168, 170 and 172 High Street, Kuala Lumpur, and at Kuala Lumpur Railway Station.²² Numerous ppcs of Penang and Malaya were published by FRS from c. 1910 to c. 1940, of which [25] and [27] are examples of these ppcs. FRS closed in c. 1940.

Nikko Studio, a Japanese photographic studio, produced ppcs of Penang with beautiful and subtle hues [30]. Not much is known of this studio, except that in 1916 its proprietor was K.S. Okaniwa and its address was 21 Penang Road.²² It operated from c. 1910 to 1940.

The vast majority of real ppcs have unknown photographers or publishers. It is estimated that among pre-war Penang ppcs, about 30 per cent were taken or published by unnamed photographers or publishers. An example of this is a rare ppc of Lim Eu Toh, taken in 1904 [28]; its photographer is unknown. Lim Eu Toh was the president of the Penang Chinese Chamber of Commerce (1918–1925),²³ and an elected member of the Municipal Commission in 1906.²⁴

The earliest known ppc to reach Penang was on 26 December 1898 (*bottom left*; [37]). This postcard of a Japanese shrine was sent as a Christmas greeting card to Reverend and Mrs Pykett of the Anglo-Chinese School in Penang [37] by their pupil, S.N. Farida (*bottom left*). The ppc was sent from Singapore on 23 December 1898 and arrived in Penang on 26 December 1898.

Other photographers and publishers of Penang
ppcs include Arestore; A.M.I.; Cooperative Agency;
British Empire Series; K.M. Mohamed Eusoff; M.J.; S.M.
Manicum; Pritchard & Co.; Penang Photo Store; Raphael
Tuck; Straits Photo; T.C.B.; Straits Photo; Valentine &
William; Waterlow & Sons, etc.



[1]

UNTITLED [STATUE OF FRANCIS LIGHT]

Cancellation: Nil*Back:* Divided*Publisher:* Unknown

The bronze statue of Francis Light. Originally it showed Francis Light holding a sword in his left hand. During the Japanese Occupation (1939–1945), the sword was melted down to make weapons.¹²³ In 2003, the statue was finally returned to its original location at the entrance of Fort Cornwallis. Date: c. 1973. [Collection of Dr Toh Kok Thye]



H. E. Sir Thomas Shenton Whitelegge Thomas,
Governor of the Straits Settlements, 1936–

[2]

H.E. SIR THOMAS SHENTON WHITELEGGE THOMAS, GOVERNOR OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1936–

Cancellation: Nil*Back:* Divided*Publisher:* Not stated

A photographic ppc dated c. 1940 of Sir Shenton Thomas, Governor of the Straits Settlements (SS; 1936–1942). He unveiled the statue of Francis Light at Fort Cornwallis in 1939.

[17]

PENANG.

Cancellation: Penang/date unclear*Back:* Undivided*Publisher:* Phot. Kleingrothe, Deli Sumatra, 1900.

This ppc, by Kleingrothe, is also in a grey-blue tone and depicts, from left: a Malay lady dressed in a kimono; the Waterfall in the Waterfall Gardens; and a monkey. The borders are also adorned with foliage. This ppc may have been sent in 1903.



[18]

PENANG.

Cancellation: Nil*Back:* Undivided*Publisher:* Phot. Kleingrothe, Deli Sumatra, 1900.

As with [18], this Kleingrothe ppc has labels in both English and Dutch. It features, from left to right: A Tamil lady; a view titled "Riviergezicht In Het Gebergte", meaning "River View in the Mountains"; and "Waterworks at the Botanical Gardens". The stylised image of the Tamil lady is bordered with peacock feathers.





[23]
PENANG.
Cancellation: Nil
Back: Undivided
Publisher: Phot. Kleingrothe, Deli Sumatra.
A sepia ppc of Kleingrothe depicting a Tamil lady at the top, Fort Cornwallis ("Fort") at the bottom, and a gharry with its driver and a white horse. All views have decorative borders of flowers and leaves.



[24]
PENANG.
Cancellation: 2/2/1903
Back: Undivided
Publisher: Phot. Kleingrothe, Deli Sumatra
This Kleingrothe ppc in dark azure or grey tone has three views: "E & Oriental Hotel" in the centre; a Batak woman on the left; and a man selling porcelain on the right. The three views are decorated with floral margins.



[25]

PORTRAIT OF TAN CHIN KIM.

Cancellation: Nil*Back:* Divided*Publisher:* Not stated; attributed to Tan Chin Kim of the Federal Rubber Stamp Co. (FRS)

A portrait of Tan Chin Kim (1882–1948). He was the man behind the FRS. (c. 1910–1940). Being a civil servant, he was not allowed to list his name as the founder and proprietor of the company. Date: c. 1935.



[26]

LIM EU TOH, PENANG JAN, 1904

Cancellation: PENANG/JY 21/1904*Back:* Undivided*Publisher:* Unknown

This ppc was sent by Lim Eu Toh himself to his friend in Berlin, Germany. Straits-born and English-educated, Lim Eu Toh was 33 years old when this photograph was taken. He served as the president of the Penang Chinese Chamber of Commerce from 1918 to 1925.²⁴



[27]

342 - FIRE STATION AND JINRICKSHA OFFICE, PENANG.

Cancellation: Nil

Back: Divided

Publisher: Federal Rubber Stamp Co.,
Penang, Kuala Lumpur & Ipoh

The fire station and Jinricksha Office in Penang stood along Penang Road. The building with the tower is the fire station; to its left is the Jinricksha Office (its name is clearly visible below its triangular roof). This ppc by the Federal Rubber Stamp Co. is uncommon; it shows fine details. Date: c. 1910.



[28]

A11 - SUNGAI PENANG, PENANG.

Cancellation: Nil

Back: Divided

Publisher: Made by Nikko Studio,
Penang, SS. Printed in Saxony.
An early Nikko Studio ppc,
No. A11

This is an early Nikko Studio ppc, as it is only numbered "A11". It is a typical colour ppc from this studio as it has subtle yet bright colours that are well balanced, producing a pleasant composition. Here, many Chinese sailing junks are shown along the banks of the Pinang River (today Penang River) are shown. Date: c. 1910.

[29]

GREETINGS FROM PENANG.

Cancellation: PENANG/JU 19/1901; it was sent from Penang to England

Back: Undivided

Publisher: A. Kaulfuss, Penang No. 2

This is a very early ppc by Kaulfuss. It is a triview ppc showing the "Crag Hotel & Sanatorium/Elevation 2260", "Crag Hotel", and "Foot — of the Hills". The ppc was written on 18 June 1901 and states the sender's aims to depart for Singapore after arriving from Rangoon in Burma.



[30]

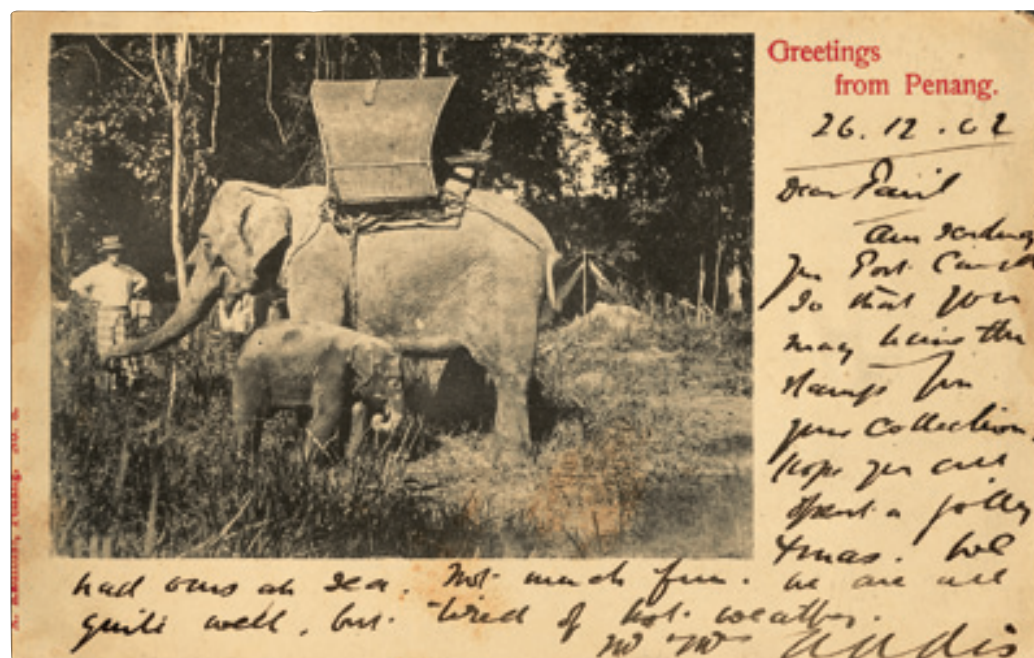
GREETINGS FROM PENANG.

Cancellation: SINGAPORE/DE 28/1902

Back: Undivided

Publisher: A. Kaulfuss, Penang, No. 8

Another ppc from Kaulfuss' "Greetings from Penang" series. This ppc, which was sent from Penang to England, was written on 26 December 1902. Kaulfuss was a highly regarded and well travelled photographer. He served as the Sultan of Kedah's photographer. Here, an elephant is shown bearing a howdah (seat or carriage on an elephant) and a European man.





[31]

GREETINGS FROM PENANG.

Cancellation: Nil

Back: Undivided

Publisher: A. Kaulfuss, Penang, No. 4

This ppc, with beautifully coloured vignettes, depicts three "Malay beauties" and a "Tamil" (although "Sikh" might be more accurate). The views are in soft colours and decorated with flowers at the borders. A black and white version of this ppc also exists.



[32]

GREETINGS FROM PENANG

Cancellation: Nil

Back: Undivided

Publisher: Not stated but likely to be A. Kaulfuss

This black and white ppc features a group of Indian musicians with various musical instruments. Kaulfuss was known to possess a unique collection of photographs of the Malay Peninsula.⁹

[33]

GREETINGS FROM PENANG

Cancellation: Singapore; date not clear

Back: Undivided

Publisher: A. Kaulfuss, Penang, No. 3

Another ppc of this series with foliage-designed vignette depicting the "Waterfall" (left), "The gardens" (centre), and "Siamese Pagoda" (right). The three views are adorned with leaves and flowers above and palm leaves below. This ppc was written at the Adelphi Hotel, Singapore (top left) and dated 18 January 1902 (top right). This ppc was sent from Singapore to England.



[34]

GREETINGS FROM PENANG.

Cancellation: PENANG/1907

Back: Divided

Publisher: A. Kaulfuss, Penang

This is almost a mirror image of [33], but more lightly shaded, and the three views are slightly smaller. The foliage adornments are also slightly smaller. This ppc was sent from Penang to Quebec in Canada.





[35]

GREETINGS FROM PENANG.

Cancellation: PENANG/DE 27/1902

Back: Undivided

Publisher: A. Kaulfuss, Penang, No. 26

A black and white rustic scene showing a Malay kampong with huts, coconut palms and a family group. This ppc was written on 26 December 1902, and sent from Penang to Scotland.



[37]

GREETINGS FROM PENANG

Cancellation: PENANG/27 MR/1903

Back: Undivided

Publisher: Not stated, but likely to be A. Kaulfuss

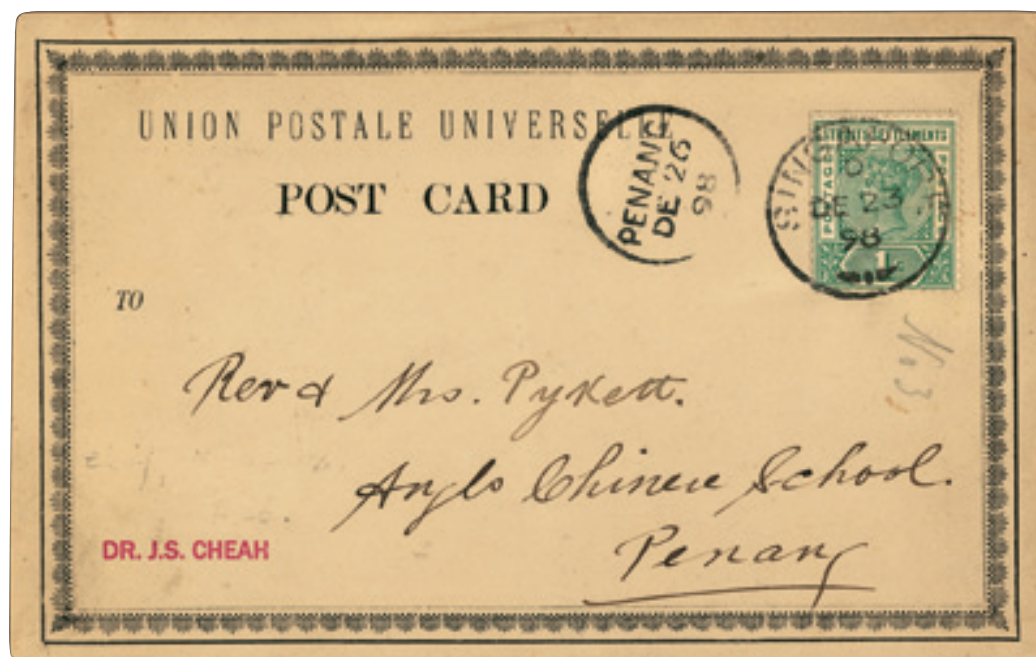
This sepia real photographic ppc depicts two Indian men (and a child holding a decorative item) peddling various merchandise.

[36]

UNTITLED.

Cancellation: SINGAPORE/DE 23/98*Back:* Undivided*Publisher:* Unknown

This is the address side of the Christmas ppc sent to Rev. G.F. Pykett (1864–1932) and his wife (*see page 10*). It was posted to Penang on 23 December 1898 and arrived on 26 December 1898 (its cds is on the left of the postage stamp). Rev. Pykett was the founder of the Anglo-Chinese School (later renamed Methodist Boys' School) in Penang. Pykett Avenue and Pykett Lane were named after him.



[38]

NO. 92. WATERFALL GARDEN.

Cancellation: Nil*Back:* Divided*Publisher:* A. Kaulfuss, Penang

The interesting part of this ppc is that the European man dressed in white and wearing a white topee is photographer A. Kaulfuss himself.¹⁸ Kaulfuss sometimes appeared in his own photographs. Born in Silesia in 1861, he passed away in Penang in 1908, and was buried there.¹⁸





The HARBOUR

The establishment of Penang as a port-town following Francis Light's takeover of the island from the Sultanate of Kedah in 1786 drew merchants with prior trading links to the island, and later, an influx of migrant workers. It also stimulated Penang's trading activities with various parts of South and Southeast Asia.¹²⁸ The island became an entrepôt: a hub for "redistribution and exchange of goods and articles between the India–China route and Southeast Asian trade network."¹²⁸

After the British EIC took control of Singapore in 1819, Penang's port was relegated to serving the northern Strait of Melaka and functioning as a "feeder" to Singapore, which had become the main port of the SS.¹²⁷ Towards the end of the 19th century however, Penang's role as a regional entrepôt exchange became fully developed, which led it to enjoy a marked expansion in trade.¹²⁷ Penang was eventually declared a free port (a port where goods in transit are exempted from customs duty) in 1872. Its free port status was withdrawn in 1967.²⁷

The magisterial illustrated book, *Twentieth Century Impressions of British Malaya* (1908) describes Penang Harbour as "the great transshipment centre for the northern part of the Malay Peninsula and Sumatra".⁹ Little has changed in the last 100 years: as a traveller enters Penang Harbour and approaches land, he is greeted by a magnificent panoramic view of Penang (*bottom right*). Other panoramic photographs of Penang Harbour are shown in [39] and [40]. Early views of Penang Harbour are further shown in [41], [42] and [43]; while [44] and [45] are slightly later views, c. 1908.

Penang Harbour consists of the north harbour and south harbour. The north harbour [46] is deeper than the south harbour [47–48]; hence larger vessels use the north harbour, while small vessels use the south harbour.

Prior to World War II, Penang Harbour was crowded with ships of all sizes and shapes, from large ocean-going steamers with tall funnels [49–52] to smaller *tongkang*, prahus, *twakow*, junks and sampans [53–57].

Penang Island is separated from its hinterland, Seberang Perai (formerly known as Province Wellesley), by a channel approximately 3.2 kilometres wide at its narrowest point. People and goods were transported from Penang to Butterworth (in Seberang Perai) by sampans and other small boats. The first regular ferry service between Penang and the mainland was started by Quah Beng Kee (1872–1952)²³ and his brothers in 1894, under the name of Beng Brothers.²⁹ Their ferry service used small launches to transport people and goods from Kedah Pier (Fort Pier) [57–58] in George Town to Mitchell's Pier (*top right*) (now known as Bagan Tuan Kechil Pier) at Butterworth.²⁹ In 1924, the ferry service was taken over by the Penang Harbour Board. By the end of 1925, the ferry service carried motor vehicles. Initially, the service used the Church Street Ghaut Wharf but this was later replaced by the Church Street Pier [59–60]. Church Street Pier was also known as Ferry Pier.³⁰

The Federated Malay States Railway (FMSR) Jetty [26–30] was built in 1901. At 644 feet (196 metres), it



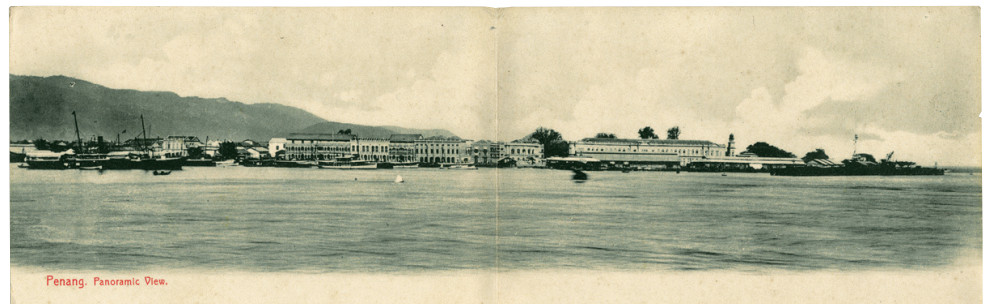
Ferries and other boats transported people and goods from Mitchell's Pier in Butterworth to Kedah Pier in Penang.²⁹ Date: c. 1930.

Opposite:

Swettenham Pier in December 1941. Penang was by this time cut off from the rest of Malaya. The goods are stacked up, waiting for freight steamers that rarely came by due to World War II.

Below:

A panoramic view of the Penang Harbour. On the right is Kedah (Fort) Pier, and next to it are Fort Cornwallis Lighthouse, and the Queen Victoria Memorial Clock Tower. Weld Quay is on the left.





An albumen photograph of Swettenham Pier. The General Post Office building is on the right, c. 1900.



Transporting elephants by lighters or *tongkang*. Swettenham Pier, c. 1900.

was the longest jetty along Weld Quay.⁵ Ferry steamers that transported passengers and goods arriving from Butterworth to George Town, used to dock here. The FMSR Jetty was replaced with the Pengkalan Raja Tun Uda (Penang Ferry Terminal) in the 1960s.

The most iconic building along Weld Quay (Pengkalan Weld) is the FMS Railway (FMSR) Station building [63–70]. The name “Railway Station” is a misnomer as it has neither a railway platform nor any trains! Built between 1905 and 1908, the FMSR Station building is presently used by the Royal Malaysian Customs Department, Penang; hence its present name: Wisma Kastam Pulau Pinang (Penang Customs Building). Opposite the former FMSR Station is Wisma Yeap Chor Ee [63; 64], built by Yeap Chor Ee, the founder of Ban Hin Lee Bank,²³ which later became part of today’s CIMB banking group.

Swettenham Pier (SP) (*top left*; [71–82]), named after Sir Frank Swettenham, Governor of the SS (1901–1904), was built in 1903, and opened in 1905. Built at a cost of \$600,000, the pier was replete with external berthing of 183 metres. The following ppcs depict SP’s fascinating past: four early views of SP [71; 72]; jetty sheds and godowns surrounding SP for the storage of goods [73; 74]; the arrival of Indian immigrants [75]; and departure of pilgrims for Jeddah [46]. SP was also the transshipment centre for tin from Malaya and southern Thailand [77; 78], and tobacco from Malaya and Sumatra [79–81]. Even elephants were exported at SP (*bottom left*; [82])!

Victoria Pier [83–90], named after Queen Victoria (r. 1837–1901), was built between 1885 and 1888.⁵ It was used by stevedores and small launches when ocean liners anchored nearby the roads. This pier was demolished in the late 1950s.

Weld Quay (WQ) was named after Sir Frederick Weld, Governor of the SS from 1880 to 1887. It stretches from SP to Prangin Road Ghaut. The major piers and jetties of Penang Harbour, including SP, are situated here. Weld

Quay was the preferred site for British and European trading headquarters and godowns (warehouses).

The SP end of WQ are shown from [91] to [98]. In [91] Boustead & Co., the Town Club and the General Post Office can be seen on the left of the ppc. The Boustead & Co. building housed many insurance, shipping and estate agencies, including the Asia Petroleum Co.²² In [64], the Government Buildings are shown on the right and the godowns on the left. The Government Buildings no longer exists as it was destroyed by Allied bombers in 1945. Early views of WQ looking towards and from the General Post Office are shown in [95] and [96]; while [97] and [98] present two further views of early WQ.

Along WQ there was a row of Government Buildings and merchant houses [99–102]. The row of buildings stretched from Boustead & Co. to the FMS Railway Station building and, beyond that, to Wisma Yeap Chor Ee.

Until World War II, WQ was a bustling hub full of small boats and ships. Day and night, labourers toiled loading and unloading goods [103–108].

The Clan Jetties (CJs) [109–110] are situated at the southern end of WQ. These have been in existence since the 19th century, and were named after the surnames of the Chinese communities. There were seven CJs along WQ, including those of the Chew, Koay, Lee, and Lim clans.³⁴ Today, six remain. The jetties’ timber houses are linked by wooden pathways on piles sunk into the sea. The jetty communities still continue fishing, stevedoring, and cross-channel ferrying.³¹

The Sungai Pinang or Pinang River (*See Chapter 1* [28]; [111; 112]) lies to the southwest of WQ. It was used as a waterway by Acehnese, Malay and Indian traders. The upper reaches of the Pinang River were also where industries such as tin smelting, were located, . Among the companies involved in tin smelting was the Eastern Smelting Co. which, during its early years, transported tin upriver by barge.⁵

[39]

NO. 1. PANORAMA OF PENANG LANDING

Cancellation: PENANG/1908

Back: Divided

Publisher: A. Kaulfuss, Penang

A multiview colour ppc depicting a panorama of Penang Harbour (top); "Landing Pier" (below left); "Post Office" (below centre); and "Beach Str." (below right). This panorama of Penang is earlier than that in [1] as the Queen Victoria Memorial Clock Tower, which was completed in 1897, is not visible in this ppc. This may be the first photograph of Penang Harbour taken by A. Kaulfuss.



[40]

PANORAMA OF PENANG

Cancellation: PENANG/DE 27/1902

Back: Undivided

Publisher: A. Kaulfuss, Penang No. 1

This ppc is similar to [2] except that this is in black and white, and the decorative borders around the views are different from [2]. This ppc was mailed in 1902 and sent from Penang to France.





[41]

UNTITLED.

Cancellation: PENANG/AP 26/1900

Back: Undivided

Publisher: A. Kaulfuss, Penang.

A real photographic ppc of Penang Harbour in c. 1895. It shows the flagpost of Fort Cornwallis on the right, and in front of it, Kedah Pier (Fort Pier). On the left are the Government Buildings and in front of it is the goods shed of the future Swettenham Pier (it would be built in 1903). Written on the top left is "Penang/25.IV.1900".



[42]

PENANG.

Cancellation: 1903

Back: Undivided

Publisher: Not stated

A slightly later view of Penang Harbour than that shown in [41]. It is also a closer view of the Government Buildings. Victoria Pier, completed in 1888, is on the left while Kedah Pier is on the right. Date: c. 1895.

[43]

NO. 78. PENANG WHARF.

Cancellation: Nil*Back:* Undivided*Publisher:* Not stated

The Queen Victoria Memorial Clock Tower can clearly be seen in this ppc; Swettenham Pier is in front of the Government Office building. A lone sampan is in the foreground. Until Swettenham Pier was built in 1903, there was no wharfage accommodation for large vessels.⁹



35...

[44]

PENANG FROM THE HARBOUR.

Cancellation: PENANG/JY 22/1909*Back:* Divided*Publisher:* Co-operative Agency, S.S., No. 10

The FMS Railways Building Clock Tower (1908) is seen on the left, while the dome of the Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank (HSBC) building, which was built in the Neo-Classical style in 1906, is just visible on the left of the clock tower. This building was destroyed in World War II and replaced with a new structure in 1948 in the late Art Deco style.¹³³ This ppc was sent from Penang to Ohio in America.



THE PEOPLE

The population

The first census of Penang was taken in December 1788, two years after Francis Light took possession of the island.¹⁰⁸ It recorded a total of 1,335 people, concentrated around George Town. Among the inhabitants were people from Madagascar, Malabar, Madras, Bengal, Batavia and Macau.¹⁰⁸ In 2010, the population of Penang was 1.56 million: 670,400 (43%) were Chinese, 642,286 (41%) Malays and other natives, 153,472 (10%) Indians, and 95,225 (6%) other races.¹²⁶

The British/Europeans

Government

Sir John Anderson [427] was the governor of the SS from 1904 to 1911.

Royal Visits

Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught, and the third son of Queen Victoria, visited Penang in 1906 [428–430].

In 1922, the Prince of Wales (the future King Edward VIII) visited the island. He was driven from Victoria Pier through a gaily-decorated George Town [431], and then to Government House. He lunched at the Penang Club and later visited the Cricket Club [432].¹¹¹

Royal Celebrations

King George V and Queen Mary were crowned on 22 June 1911; their coronation was grandly celebrated in all the British colonies, including Penang [433–440]. The Silver Jubilee of King George V and Queen Mary, on 6 May 1935, was also celebrated on a grand scale in Penang [441–446]. Celebrations to commemorate the coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth [445] on 12 May 1937 were rather subdued as war loomed in Europe.

Empire Day (known today as Commonwealth Day) used to be celebrated in May [446].

The Chinese

The Chinese, numbering 534 in the 1788 census, were the largest ethnic group on the island. Most of the Chinese migrants came from the Malay Peninsula, and had lived in Kedah and Kuantan; only a few came from China.¹⁰⁸

The Peranakan

The word *peranakan* is Malay for “local born”. Starting in the 15th century, some Chinese associated with and adopted local customs, particularly those of the Malays. These Chinese became known as *peranakan* Chinese. *Peranakan* Chinese women are known as *nyonyas*, while the men are *babas*.

Penang *nyonyas* in *baju panjang* and adorned with jewellery from head to foot are shown in [449] to [452]. Children dressed for the Chinese New Year in Manchu clothing are shown in [453]. The extravagance of the *peranakan* wedding is shown in [455].

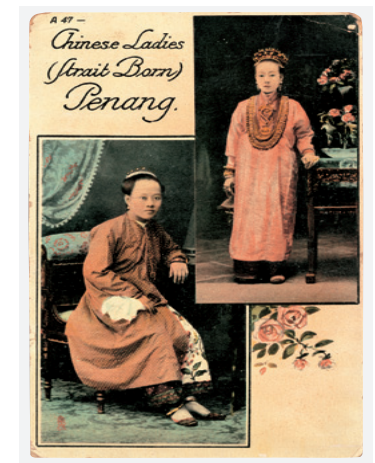
The Chinese sitting room of local-born tycoon, Cheah Chen Eok’s Beeham House [454] was filled with large Chinese porcelain vases, European epergnes (table centrepieces) and Italian marble statues.¹¹⁶

The King’s Chinese

Peranakan Chinese men preferred to be called “Straits Chinese” to distinguish themselves from the new arrivals to Penang from China. The term “King’s Chinese” was coined in 1906 by lawyer G.E. Raine. Some of the King’s Chinese in Penang signed up with the Straits Settlements Volunteer Force (SSVF) [456]. They trained at Volunteers Corp and practised shooting at the Rifle Range [457].



The address side of [15]. The sender uses a stamp commemorating the Silver Jubilee of King George V (right).



A biview ppc depicting *peranakan* Chinese women, known as *nyonyas*. They wear their customary *baju panjang* and elaborate jewellery, c. 1910.

Opposite:

The melting pot of Penang. This ppc depicts a Malay dancer, surrounded by Jawi Peranakans of Indian descent, and some Chinese, c. 1910.



The “Al Huda Arabic School Borea Party”, c. 1930. The *borea* performers are dressed as Arabs. In the centre is a model of a camel.



The silver chariot that bears the statue of Lord Muruga in Thaipusam processions in Penang. This ppc dates from c. 1910.

Opium Addiction

The sale and consumption of opium were legal and encouraged by the colonial government as opium provided it with its major source of revenue.¹¹⁹ Opium addicts in Penang c. 1900 are shown in [458] and [459].

In Penang, the campaign against the sale and consumption of opium was spearheaded by Dr Wu Lien-Teh (1879–1960). He founded the Anti-Opium Association and Rehabilitation Centre [460], but was forced to leave Penang partly because of his anti-opium campaign. He gained international acclaim for his work on the treatment and prevention of the pneumonic plague in China.¹²⁰ The British totally prohibited the use of opium only in 1945.

The Chingay Procession

Chingay processions are held in honour of Chinese deities or on important occasions. In 1911, a Chingay procession [437–440] was held to celebrate the coronation of King George V and Queen Mary. In 1924, a Chingay procession was held in honour of the God of Prosperity, Tua Pek Kong [461; 462]. The 1928 Chingay procession [463–470] was the grandest to be held and a special souvenir book was published for the occasion.¹²¹ It was held in honour of the Goddess of Mercy, Guanyin, over four days: 28, 30 October and 1 and 2 November.

The Malays

When Francis Light landed in Penang in 1786, there were already permanent Malay communities in Penang engaged in fishing and rice-planting.

The establishment of Penang as a trading post attracted migrant Muslim traders from the Middle East, Indian subcontinent, and the Malay Archipelago. Some of them married Malay women, creating the elite Jawi Peranakan (Straits Malays) or Jawi Pekan group.¹¹³

Pre-war Penang Malays are depicted in [471] to [474]; a Malay wedding is shown in [475].

The Penang *Boria* is shown in (top left; [476]). *Boria* was first introduced to Penang by early settlers from India, particularly Indian Shia Muslims. A popular venue for *borea* used to be Padang Brown (today Padang Dato Keramat), and later, Padang Tambun. The last *borea* competition was held at Padang Tambun in 1972.¹¹³

The idyllic lifestyle of the rural Malays in inland and seaside kampongs is shown in [477] to [480]. Rice farming [480] was done exclusively by the Malays.

The Indians and Other Races

Indians were early settlers of Penang; South Indian Muslims, known as Chulias, were among the earliest Indians to arrive.

The rubber boom of the 1890s to 1920 led to the arrival of large numbers of Tamil migrants to work on rubber plantations [490] and to build the railways and roads [489] used to transport tin and rubber. They also worked in the harbour and maritime industry. Money lenders, known as “chettiares”, grew particularly rich.

Indian workers and bullock carts are shown in [481]. The Chettiar Temple along Waterfall Road is shown from [482] to [484]. The Hindu festival of Thaipusam [485–487] is celebrated annually at the end of January or beginning of February, and involves a pilgrimage procession [487] from Little India to the Chettiar Temple.

An Indian Revolving Cradle [488], shown during an Indian festival such as Thaipusam, worked like a modern Ferris wheel, except that it was revolved by hand.

Penang was also home to other minority races including the Japanese [491] and Burmese [492] communities. Another prominent minority was the Armenians, who played a far greater role in the economic, social and civic life of Penang than their limited numbers would suggest. Today, the E & O Hotel and Armenian Street are a lasting reminder of the Armenian presence in Penang.¹²³



[437]

A26 - CHINESE FESTIVAL PROCESSION, PENANG.

Cancellation: Nil

Back: Divided

Publisher: Nikko Studio, Penang, S.S./Printed in Saxony.

A Chingay procession to mark the coronation of King George V. Two maidens are seated on a float decorated with flowers; the umbrellas are for shielding the maidens from the sun. Date: 1911.



[438]

CHINESE CHINKAY, PENANG.

Cancellation: Nil

Back: Divided

Publisher: K.M. Mahmed Esoof, Penang./No. 3040

The back of this 1911 ppc reads: "Ladies are strapped to their seats and are placed on raised wooden frame...This car is brilliantly decorated and at night beautifully illuminated...". Two maidens are seated on a cart decorated with flowers. The cart may have been pulled by bullock, horse or human.

[439]

CHINESE CHINGEY PROCESSION, PENANG.

Cancellation: Nil*Back:* Divided*Publisher:* Nikko-Studio.

A similar ppc by S.M. Manicum is captioned "Coronation Naga". The dragon is mounted on carts with wheels and drawn by horses (a horse's tail is visible on the margin). "Chingay" means "true art", "decorated miniature stage" or "float" in Chinese.¹¹² This ppc is dated 1911.



[440]

A 32 - CHINESE FESTIVAL PROCESSION/
PENANG*Cancellation:* Nil*Back:* Divided*Publisher:* Nikko Studio, Penang, S.S./
Printed in Saxony.

A biview colour ppc of the Chingay procession in 1911. The upper panel shows a dragon dance, while the lower panel shows a dragon drawn by a horse (similar to [439]). Jean DeBernardi, in her book, *Rites of Belonging in a Malaysian Chinese Community* (2004), states that Chingay processions traditionally served as occasions to pray for luck for the Chinese community and to repel disasters and epidemics, but that they acquired new meanings in colonial Penang: they were used to celebrate colonial or national events. For example there were Chingay processions to celebrate the coronation of King George V in June 1911. The processions cost \$120,000.





[449]

UNTITLED [NYONYAS]

Cancellation: Nil

Back: Divided

Publisher: Tan Chin Kim, proprietor of Federal Rubber Stamp Co. (FRS)

Two Penang *nyonyas*, relatives of Tan Chin Kim, founder of the FRS, are shown in this c. 1910 ppc. They are dressed in their traditional *baju panjang* and batik sarong, adorned with tiaras and jewellery, and wearing anklets and beaded slippers. [Collection of Tan Ah Yeang, daughter of Tan Chin Kim.]



[450]

A 47 - CHINESE LADIES (STRAITS BORN)/PENANG.

Cancellation: Penang/1920

Back: Divided

Publisher: Nikko Studio, Penang, S.S./Printed in Saxony.

A biview ppc of Straits-born Chinese ladies in their traditional attire. The portrait on the right also shows a glass epergne on the tea table. While the *nyonyas* adopted Malay-style dress and cuisine, they retained their traditional Chinese beliefs and lifestyle. Date: c. 1910.



[451]

UNTITLED [PENANG NYONYA]

Cancellation: Nil*Back:* Divided*Publisher:* Unknown

A c. 1920 beautiful studio portrait of a *nyonya* in pink *baju panjang* and adorned with jewellery from head to toe. This woman must have been very well-off; she has a ring on almost every finger!



[452]

UNTITLED.

Cancellation: Nil*Back:* Divided*Publisher:* Unknown

A formal portrait of a *nyonya* showing her jewellery in detail: her collar is held by two jewelled buttons; her *baju panjang* is fastened by a set of brooches. She is also wearing three "star" brooches and a long necklace. Portraits such as this were often given to a matchmaker. Date: c. 1930.



Penang: 500 Early Postcards is the fifth book of early picture postcards by Professor Cheah Jin Seng. His earlier titles were on Singapore, Malaya, Perak and Selangor. The book contains picture postcards of Penang from the late 19th century to the 1960s.

The charm and diversity of Penang are vividly captured in the book's series of postcard galleries. These depict many aspects of Penang including commercial life at the island's harbour; imposing colonial architecture; the many hotels, schools and hospitals; bustling streets with their business establishments and places of worship; transport, from rickshaws and bullock carts to trams and early motorcars; the Botanic Gardens, Penang Hill and Province Wellesley; and Penang's colourful people. The book also includes insights into the hobby of collecting postcards.

Nearly all the postcards featured in *Penang: 500 Early Postcards* are drawn from the personal collection of the author and are reproduced at, or close to, their natural size and colour. As such, the book is a valuable collector's item as well as an important historical reference, particularly for philatelists and deltiologists.

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